

WA State Transportation Commission Meeting

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
and People For People



Present:
a TRIBAL TRANSIT Briefing



Presented by:
Elizabeth Mares, Tribal Transit Manager,
Yakama Nation
Teri K. Johnson-Davis, Economic Development
Director, Yakama Nation
Madelyn Carlson, CEO, People for People

7/8/2008

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FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION [FTA]

- Federal Transit Administration (FTA) *Department of Transportation: Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Program: Tribal Transit Program*
- Purpose:
 - A new program authorized by SAFETEA-LU
 - To establish the Tribal Transit Program
 - For Indian tribes
 - Funding to increase from \$8 million in FY 2006 to \$15 million in FY 2009
- Year One, FTA awarded the Yakama Nation a grant in the amount of \$490,890.
- Year Two, FTA awarded the Yakama Nation a grant in the amount of \$400,000.

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FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION [FTA] cont'd

- The Yakama Nation partnered with People For People as a sub-recipient to provide the transit service
- The Yakama Nation established a Yakama Tribal Transit System on the Yakama Reservation
- Service is a standard repetitive *Fixed Route System* picking up and discharging passengers at specific, predetermined locations

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FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION [FTA] cont'd

- Yakama Tribal Transit has improved the quality and well-being of the tribal and non-tribal members that reside on the Yakama reservation by:
 - Providing mobility and access to employment, education, health care, social service, shopping, and cultural and spiritual events.

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Service Delivery Area



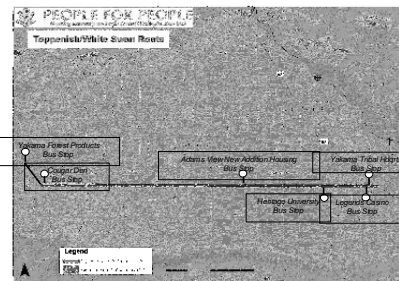
- On the reservation, several communities are clustered together in towns where concentrations of tribal and non-tribal members live.
- Toppenish is the largest city on the reservation, and it is also where the Yakama Tribal Headquarters and other central tribal services are located. Other communities include White Swan, Wapato, Harrah, and Mabton, Washington.

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CURRENT SERVICE



Fixed Route Service

- Due to limited FTA funding, our services are limited to one fixed route
- HOURS OF OPERATION = 6:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

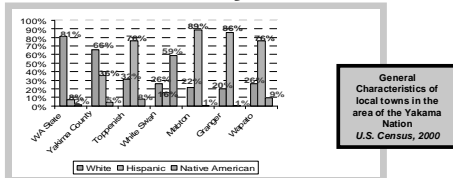
• MAP courtesy of: Yakima Valley Conference of Governments YVCOG 6

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Community Profile



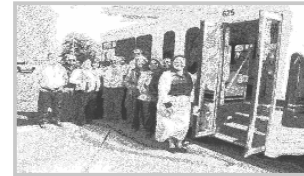
- The Yakama Nation and surrounding areas are diverse communities
- Prominent languages in the area include English, Spanish and Sahaptan.

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Building a Mutual Rewarding Partnership - Yakama Tribal Council & People For People



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People for People



- Since 1965 People for People have served low-income families, children, seniors and people with disabilities in multiple counties in Central WA.
- The Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Program is newly authorized by the Safe Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, [SAFETEA-LU]
- The Yakama Nation is proud to have People For People as its transportation provider

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People For People



Relationship Building & Developing a Common Vision

- Develop long and short term goals that:

- Identify transportation needs
- Develop culturally appropriate marketing
- Integrate existing transportation services
- Identify key partnerships

Community Input

- Integrated community input for the transit concept being developed:

- Held monthly transportation coalition meetings
- Face-to-face meetings with local employers
- Community forums with potential riders
- Surveys to parents of school-aged children
- Gathered data on local economic factors and community needs

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Planning Partners & Supporters:

- Yakama Nation Tribal Council
- Yakama Nation Vocational Rehabilitation
- Yakama Nation Human Services
- Yakama Nation Economic Development
- Yakama Nation TERO (Tribal Employee Rights Office)
- Yakama Forest Products
- Yakama Legends Casino
- AB Foods
- University of Washington
- Employment Security / Work Source
- Del Monte Foods
- EPIC (Enterprise for Progress in the Community)
- White Swan Ambulance Services
- New Vision
- City of Wapato Police Department
- DSHS-Wapato Community Service Office
- Driving Rural Yakima's Rural Economy DRYE
- Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Med Star Cabulance
- Fort Simcoe Job Corps
- Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic
- People For People
- Yakima County Developmental Disabilities
- Yakima Valley Conference of Governments
- Yakima County Public Services
- WSMC (Washington State Migrant Council)
- Telegraph Engineering

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TRIBAL TRANSIT START-UP SEPT. 4, 2007

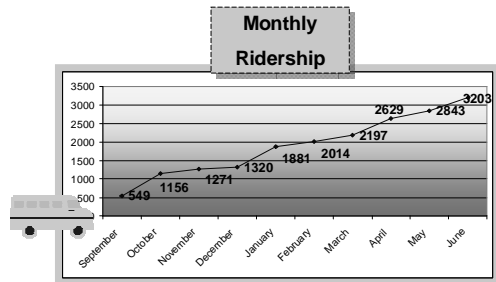


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RIDERSHIP CONTINUES



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WA STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION GRANT

- WSDOT awarded the Yakama Nation \$126,387.00 for 2 years
- The purpose of this grant was to hire a Mobility Coordinator who will educate stakeholders, social service agencies, tribal enterprises, public transportation providers, and citizens on the Yakama reservation on how to access transit services, schedules, and to coordinated transportation services and resources

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MOBILITY COORDINATOR

- **Elizabeth Mares**, started December, 2007 as the Mobility Coordinator. She is responsible for educating the public on the Yakama Nations' newly established Tribal Transit System

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HERITAGE UNIVERSITY INTERN

- **Olivia Bill** is one of our Heritage University Interns since October of 2007
- Her first Internship with the Tribal Transit Program began training on the 2-1-1 Information & Referral line at People For People in Yakima, WA
- When we leased our new building -- she was transferred to Topenish, WA

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HERITAGE UNIVERSITY INTERN

- Michelle Brodeson is a Senior at Heritage University and began her Internship on February 25, 2008.
- Michelle is assisting with answering phones, conducting surveys, and of course she rides the bus

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NATIVE WORK SERVICES INTERN

- Sondra Sampson began her Internship with the Tribal Transit Program on January 7, 2008.
- She takes all incoming calls, meets and greets customers with tact, courtesy and a smile!

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THANK YOU!

- Transportation services are critical on the Yakama Reservation
- We know we are making a difference in the lives of individuals and families.



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